

## **PELELIU BATTLEFIELD**

**Peleliu Island, Peleiu Municipality**

The battle for Peleliu, gateway to the Philippines, was the longest and one of the hardest-fought amphibian operations of the entire Central Pacific theater in World War II. In contrast to other islands, where the Japanese were unsuccessful in annihilating advancing enemy troops on the beaches, here they established their main-line defenses inland. Although the Japanese troops lost the battle, their new tactics enabled them to inflict heavy losses on U.S. Marine and Army forces and to hold out for 74 days before surrendering.